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Little People
of

America
District 12

California

Hawaii

Nevada

'72~
'73

1909

20

Amesbury

District 12

California

Hawaii

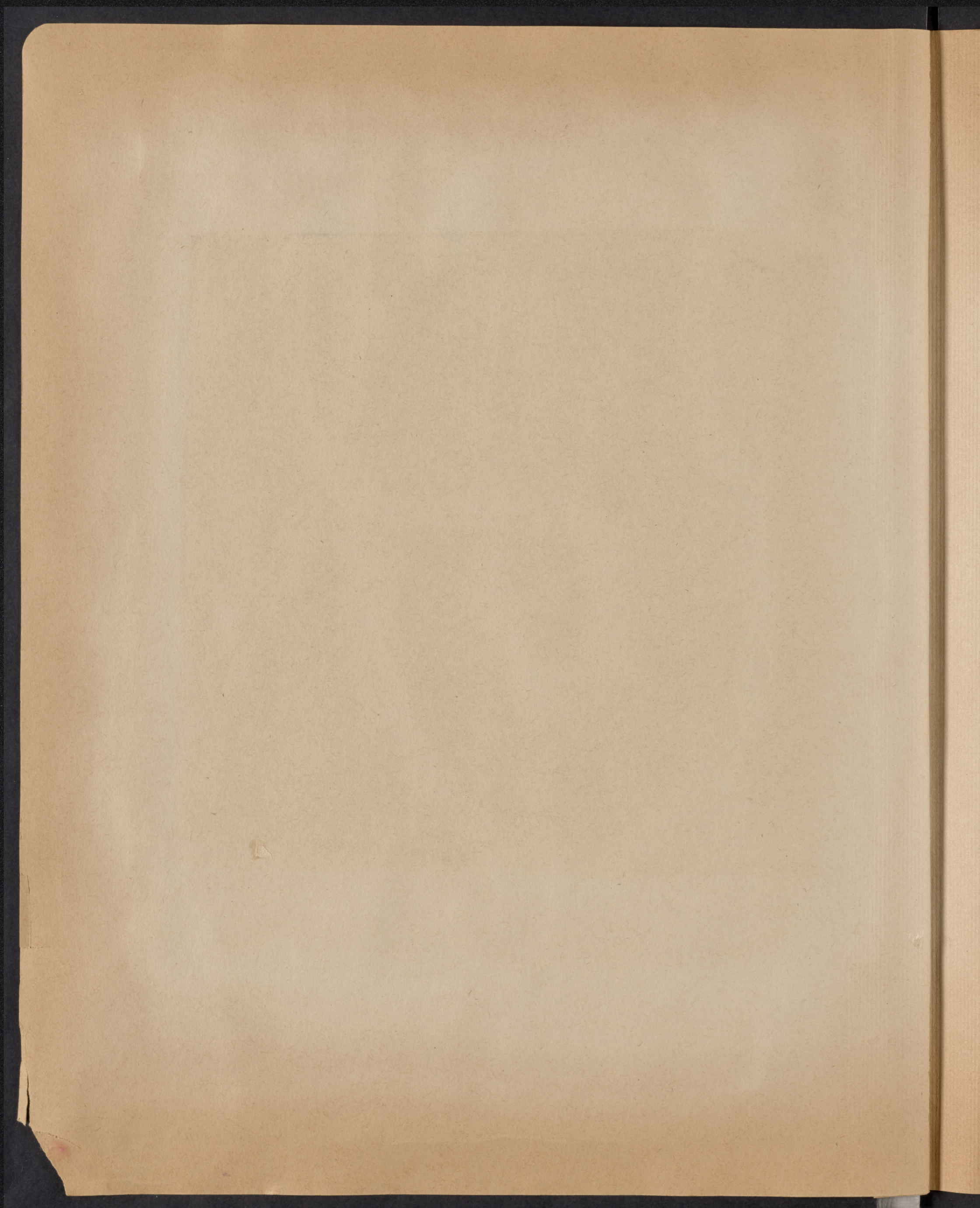
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Dedicated
to a
great guy;
a friend of
many L.P.'s,

Thom
Henderson





The Little People Work on a Big Problem

BY JOAN BECK

● IF THEY had lived in ancient Egypt, they would have been hailed as gods. In the Caesars' Rome, they would have been prized as counselors, jesters, or gladiators. During the Middle Ages, they would have lived with royalty. And during the Renaissance, they would have been the subject of renowned artists or treated as pets.

It's only in recent years that dwarfs and midgets have become understood for what they really are — men and women of normal intelligence who have abnormalities in growth which limit them markedly in height and cause innumerable problems in everyday life.

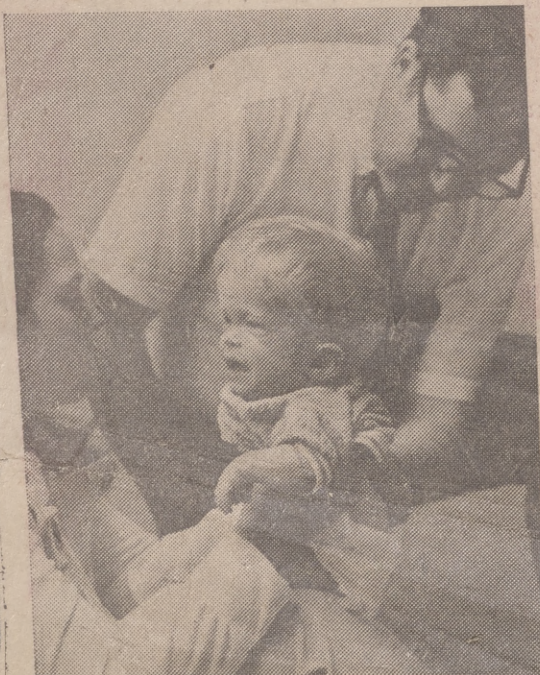
It's these common difficulties which have brought more than 400 midgets, dwarfs, and their families to a Hillside hotel for the 14th annual convention of Little People of America which ends Saturday. A national organization limited to those under 4'10" tall, LPA was started in 1957 by actor Billy Barty and now has more than 2,000 members.

Watching the Little People settle into the hotel for the 5-day meeting points up only a few of the staggering difficulties they encounter in a world that is out of proportion for them. A petite grandmother stands on a chair to dial a pay phone. Elevator buttons and door knobs have been lowered. A platform built at the front desk helps Little People talk at eye level to reservation clerks.

But chairs are still too high for Little People's feet to touch the floor. It's an effort to reach the water faucets in the rest rooms, to eat at normal-sized restaurant tables, even to climb a few average-sized steps.

What binds Little People together in an obvious warmth is the relief of finding others who understand the frustrations and share the problems of being Lilliputians in the world of Gullivers. For, other than their short stature, they are a diverse group.

LPA members at the convention range in age from 2 to almost 80, with large contingents of children and teens, called "Little Littles." There are accountants, artists, actors, teachers, secretaries, students, writers, engineers, bankers, homemakers and a wide range of other achieving adults.



At LPA meetings, members talk about how to get clothes that fit, how to manage driving a car, what kinds of special equipment help, what they should tell their children about short stature. They also have an unusual opportunity to learn more about their particular medical problems and the genetic reasons for them.

The Little People organization has developed a close working relationship with specialists in various aspects of short stature at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Eight of these physicians, headed by Dr. Victor McKusick, are attending the LPA convention, both to study the Little People and to offer them a variety of medical help and genetic information — not only at the meeting but at the Baltimore medical center.

"There are at least a dozen types of short stature represented among the Little People," Dr. McKusick told a convention audience. The most common form is achondroplasia, an inherited disorder which involves not only short stature but a disproportioned body.

An individual with achondroplasia — commonly called a dwarf — typically has a head that is somewhat larger than usual, with a wide forehead, button-shaped nose and a lower jaw that juts forward slightly.

A dwarf's trunk is normal in size, but his spinal column may be unusually narrow and curvatures are common. He may have lordosis in the lower part of his back, giving

Dr. Judy Hall and Dr. Arthur Siebens, of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, give a medical checkup to Jack Bedow, of Owatonna, Minn., at L. P. A. convention.

him a characteristic posture. Some dwarfs need treatment with braces and even surgery for these difficulties.

The legs of a dwarf are extremely short and stumpy-looking. Bowing is common and may increase as he reaches the teen-age and adult years. His feet are near-normal in size, but may have some degree of clubfoot.

What goes wrong with normal patterns of growth to produce achondroplasia? The condition is inherited and is caused by a single, defective, dominant gene. This means that if one parent is an achondroplastic dwarf and the other is of normal size, each of their children will have one chance in two of inheriting achondroplasia.

If two individuals with achondroplasia marry, chances are three out of four that each child will inherit at least one abnormal gene and have this form of dwarfism. There's only one chance in four that each youngster will be of normal size.

Many of the families at the Little People convention — a few of them including three generations of dwarfs — show these inheritance patterns quite clearly. But in other instances, an achondroplastic dwarf is born to parents who are of normal size. A new, unexplained mutation in a gene which influences growth accounts for these instances, researchers now assume.

A youngster who has achondroplasia as a result of a new mutation in a gene can pass the disorder on to his children and his descendants in the usual inheritance patterns. But his parents almost certainly will not have another dwarf child — unlike parents who are dwarfs themselves.

Several other forms of dwarfism are often misdiagnosed as achondroplasia. It's important that an accurate diagnosis be made,

Little People of America — dwarfs, midgets, and their families — listen to a speaker at the organization's 14th annual convention in Hillside.

Tribune photos by Michael Budrys

President Joe Alexander, like most L. P. A. speakers, needs a special platform to reach the podium.

because some of the other disorders mimicking achondroplasia have different kinds of inheritance patterns — and require a different kind of medical treatment.

This kind of diagnostic help and genetic counseling is offered to Little People by the Johns Hopkins researchers.

Not all of the Little People have disproportionate bodies. Many are normally proportioned, but simply unusually small in size. They are commonly called midgets, or pituitary dwarfs, and usually have a condition called hypopituitarism.

Hypopituitarism is caused by a lack of normal functioning of the pituitary gland, a small organ located at the base of the brain in the center of the head, which secretes human growth hormone and other essential substances. But this broad classification includes several different medical conditions, with different inheritance patterns and different treatment needs.

Some midgets do not mature sexually, because their pituitary gland does not produce the necessary hormones. They continue to look unusually young even when they are in their 20's and 30's and are not able to have children.



Other midgets do mature sexually and can have children. If two midgets of this type marry, their offspring will all be midgets. Because the disorder is caused by the presence of two abnormal, defective genes, affected individuals can only pass along defective genes to their youngsters. When a midget marries a person of normal size who is not a carrier of the same disorder, all of their children will be carriers but will not be midgets.

In recent years, researchers have had considerable success treating midgets who have hypopituitarism with human growth hormone.

Regardless of the genetic odds, many of the Little People have married — often to each other. Many have children — some of them normal in size, others with the same genetic disorder as one or both of their parents.

But some of the couples prefer to adopt children — either instead of having their own, or in addition. LPA has an active adoption bureau headed by Mrs. Eleanor Jones, who is notified whenever a dwarf or midget child is available for adoption anywhere in the United States.

Convention '72

Chicago



July 24
July 28
'72





L.P.A.
14th Convention
Holiday-Hillside
Ill. July 24-28, 1972

Little People holding weekend convention here

By Walker A. Tompkins
News-Press Staff Writer

When you're a full-grown adult and you're only four feet 10 inches tall or less, life can hold special problems, ranging from discrimination in the job market to reaching buttons in elevators or dialing in a telephone booth.

This weekend, dwarfs from all over California and Nevada are meeting in convention at Goleta's Holiday Inn to discuss their unique problems and devise ways and means of coping with them. Their international organization is called "Little People of America Inc."

APPROXIMATELY one out of every 25,000 births in this country is afflicted with dwarfism, and the medical profession is frank to say they don't know the causes. But they're working on it, at medical centers from coast to coast, especially at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore.

Petite Mrs. Harriet Stickney, four feet two inches of well-groomed femininity, is national vice president of the LPA. She says there are over 70 medically identifiable causes of dwarfism, the most common being pituitary gland disorders which arrest growth short of puberty, and achondroplasia, a bone disorder.

"Doctors can usually identify a dwarf at birth," Mrs. Stickney says. "Sometimes they are mistaken for hydrocephalic victims because of their abnormally large heads. Premature babies sometimes grow up to be under normal height, also. Most dwarfs have normal-sized torsos, but their arms and legs are too short in proportion."

THE LPA WAS organized by actor Billy Bart, well known to TV viewers for his roles with Art Linkletter, Spike Jones, the Smothers Brothers, Andy Williams, and recent episodes of the Walton Family series. As director of the big LPA chapter in Los Angeles, he is attending the Goleta convention.

Alfred F. Stickney, director of the LPA for California, Ne-

vada and Hawaii, reports that most dwarfs have normal-sized parents. If dwarfs marry, there is a 50-50 chance their child will be of normal height. If a faulty pituitary gland is the reason for a child's growth problems, extra height can be induced with injections of hormones (from human beings, not synthesized) if the case is caught early enough.

"Our motto is 'Think Big!'," Stickney said. "The worst time in life for a little person is during his adolescent years. Schoolmates can be cruel in the teens. Many dwarfs suffer personality trauma from teasing from which they never recover. Over-protective parents are another difficulty. The purpose of LPA is to help little people compete in a giant-sized world."

A LITTLE person's daily existence is fraught with many problems unguessed by normal-sized people, the Stickneys point out. Shoes and clothing are a problem. During the mini-skirt fad, dwarf women never had it so good. The men usually have to have their clothes custom-made, because their bodies can't be fitted with boys' sizes.

Little people are great improvisers. One individual attending the Goleta convention has invented a gadget which enables a little person to put coins in a pay telephone and dial his number, if the phone booth is not equipped with a seat he can climb up on.

Hand controls for automobiles are readily available for little people, as are special pedal adapters for bicycles.

DISCRIMINATION against little people for jobs is lessening as the public is getting better educated, the Stickneys said. Among those attending the LPA convention this weekend are certified public accountants, machinists, speech therapists, school teachers, even engineers.

Stickney himself is an aviation mechanic for United Air Lines, where his Lilliputian size helps him work in cramped spaces. His wife, a



BILLY BARTY, right, television and screen dwarf who founded Little People of America Inc., confers with Mr. and Mrs. Harold F. Stickney of San Bruno, LPA officials in charge of the tri-state convention of Little People of America Inc. which is meeting at the Holiday Inn in Goleta.
—News-Press photo

University of Wisconsin graduate, taught in the primary grades for 12 years before turning to fulltime work with the LPA.

"We get used to people staring at us," Mrs. Stickney said, "and we don't mind children being curious about us. When we travel, we find that in some countries, especially Indonesia, we are considered 'special people,' almost deities. Here at home, we have to put up with being regarded as 'cute.'"

DWARFISM ATTACKS all races and walks of life. Little people often have sickly childhoods, but their life expectancy is normal. Some are susceptible to colds, bronchial problems and hearing loss. Their IQs parallel those of normal-sized adults.

The word "dwarf" is preferred to "midget," which is

considered slang.

"Housing is another problem," Mrs. Stickney said. "We can't alter a house to fit our physical size because that would destroy its resale value. So we have to carry stools to enable us to use gas and electric ranges, or reach clothes racks in closets. But these inconveniences are taken for granted and really don't bother us much. One of life's pleasures which is denied us, though, is being able to sit on a chair, or a seat in a bus, plane, theater or cafe, and have our feet touch the floor! When it comes to playing the piano or organ, we have to attack extensions to the foot pedals."

THE LPA HAS a non-profit, tax-deductible foundation *to pay for scholarships for little people and carry on medical research into dwarfism. One

of the organization's main functions is giving advice to normal-sized parents on the rearing of dwarf children.

LPA also handles adoptions where parents reject a dwarf child — which frequently happens in all levels of society. They work closely with Adoption Resources Exchange of North America (ARENA) in placing dwarf children in good homes.

Information concerning Little People of America Inc. and its work may be had by writing Alfred F. Stickney at Box 633, San Bruno, 94066.



MATTER OF IMPORTANCE — Mel Rossi (left), owner of Rossi's Machine Shop in El Monte, was among those in attendance at the convention of the Little People of America at the Holiday Inn over the weekend. Mel is shown explaining the adjustable car pedal system he designed to fit any car. Listening are George Moore, Lydia Thompson and Lenette Araldo. (TODAY Photo by

Fall District Meeting

Santa
Barbara
29 '72

The Big Problem Of Being Small

By KATHY CARANLIK

Al and Harriet Stickney are members of the Little People of America who thing big.

Active in the national organization, the couple believes LPA is calling public attention to dwarfism.

LPA is something special to the Stickney's because they were introduced by mutual friends in the organization and married three years later. Al is currently the district director for California, Nevada and Hawaii and Harriet is vice president.

People usually take a "double look," according to Harriet, who is 4 feet two inches, whenever she and her husband (4 feet 6 inches) are shopping. However, she did indicate people in California are more sophisticated and intense feelings did not prevail.

Little people experience the same problems as tall individuals, just in reverse. Harriet explained her home is set up according to their needs, but usually creates a problem for somebody coming to visit.

She noted one special stool is used for reaching things throughout the house. Slowly but surely, Harriet indicated, things will be placed where they are easily reached.

"Shopping is another problem because some things are hard to reach, but people are very helpful. Public transportation is just a beast for the real small people," Harriet commented.

The organization encourages little people to be as independent as possible including driving their own automobiles, which Al does.

Parents must be encouraged to allow their child to be independent, Harriet said, which is a major area of concern for the LPA. Prior to the formation of the club, some held back their dwarfed child. They were never allowed to go out alone, she added.

"When I found my own apartment someone asked me where my mother was and why there was no one in

the apartment to look after me," Harriet explained.

She contends things cannot always be done by parents. This is not just a problem for the little people, but for all youths.

The LPA is creating many employment opportunities and a better understanding especially for teenagers, Al noted. When the organization meets, the little people gather their thoughts and make recommendations to the teenagers as to direction they can follow for employ-

ment, he explained.

Research is a primary function of the national organization; learning about dwarfism. Harriet explained there are 80 varieties of dwarfism, glandular and bone structure.

The results cannot be determined before birth, but there is a fifty-fifty chance little people will have a dwarfed child.

Harriet and Al explained none of their brothers or sisters were dwarfs, in fact they averaged about 5 feet

6 inches.

Being 4' 2" tall may be a problem for some people, but not for Harriet. She believes being small is really not a problem at all, just a nuisance. Mini dresses are very good for Harriet and she stated occasionally she can go into a store and buy a dress off the rack without even shortening it.

However, sometimes clothes can be expensive because they have to be tailor made, but they are not cheaper because less material is used.

Al is 4' 6" tall but clothing does not present a

problem. He has located a shop in San Francisco which makes clothes for small and tall people. The choice is sometimes limited, but there are no real problems, he added.

LPA has opened up many avenues for Harriet and Al, including opportunities to travel throughout the United States and meeting people who share the common "nuisances."

Athletic events are much easier when all the competition is the same size, Harriet explained.

"We always participated in the activities when we

Profile

were young, but we never won the athletic events, just tried real hard," Al commented.

The Stickney's are currently conducting speaking engagements throughout the bay area and working on the national convention next July in Oakland.



Mr. and Mrs. Al Stickney discuss upcoming activities for the Little People of America, Inc.

Size is no problem for two 'big' people

By PEG DUNGAN

"If you can't be a pine on the top of the hill,
Be a scrub in the valley — but be
The best little scrub at the side of the rill;
Be a bush if you can't be a tree.
It isn't by size that you win or you fail —
Be the best of whatever you are."

If Otto and Dora Bohmann of 541 Bella Drive in Newbury Park have a motto, it's surely this — and they try to shape their lives by it.

Otto and Dora are dwarves. Otto is four feet, four inches tall and Dora is an even four feet. Both are what medical science calls "chondroplastics" — one of the some 80 different types of dwarfism identified so far.

Their condition isn't really understood by medical science. It isn't hereditary, since they have a nine-year-old daughter, Mary Anne, who is now four feet, five inches tall,

and who gives every sign of growing into a tall woman.

"Both of us were born to perfectly normal-sized parents," says Otto. "I was the youngest of 12 children, and my family treated me just like the other kids — spanking me when I was bad and praising me when I was good. But they never made me feel different from them, though all of my brothers and sisters were fairly tall."

Otto has never found his size any handicap. He's worked in construction in Europe, "where the tools were a pick, shovel and a wooden wheelbarrow." He has also wrestled professionally in the United States for three years, has installed custom hi-fi sets, and is currently employed by Burroughs as an electro-mechanical assembler.

Dora Bohmann, too, has worked most of her life, first for the Military Subsistence Supply



Shared interest

Fishing is a good way for father and daughter to spend a few companionable hours together, and Otto and Mary Anne Bohmann are no exception. Above, they check out the family equipment to make sure that everything is in order for the next trip to the beach.

Agency in Seattle, Wash. Then, at the insistence of one of her bosses, "who felt that I was getting into a rut," she transferred to the Los Angeles office of the Army Corps of Engineers.

"I was going to make government work a career," she laughs, "but I met Otto, and he changed my mind."

Dora Bohmann now does office work at Capitol Records, keeping her house spotlessly clean after she gets home from work.

Otto and Dora met each other at a ball game sponsored by the "Little People of America" — a club open to all people of the physical types thus far identified with dwarfism.

"I first learned about the club when I moved to Los Angeles," Dora Bohmann recalls, "and attended their Las Vegas convention in 1957."

The first club meeting was somewhat of a shock, Dora Bohmann says, "because I'd never seen another dwarf — and when I walked into the room full of others like me, all I could think was 'Do I really look like that?'"

At another meeting — a baseball game — Otto and Dora met, and were married a little over a year afterward.

Both are enthusiastic about the "Little People of America" — especially because it has served as a testing ground for medical science on types of dwarfism.

Nothing had been known in medicine about dwarfism, says Dora Bohmann, "until a Dr. Langer of Minnesota had a daughter who was afflicted by it. He searched medical literature for information and could find practically nothing. So he got in touch with the 'Little People of America' and asked for our cooperation in studying the condition."

Almost all club members volunteered for testing and examination by physicians, says Otto, "and from this testing has come all of the present information on dwarfism — with over 80 different types identified so far."

Only "pituitary-type" dwarfism can be successfully treated at the present time, says Dora Bohmann. This type is caused by a malfunctioning pituitary gland, resulting in perfectly proportioned individuals who are far shorter than average. Tom Thumb, a performer with P. T. Barnum at the turn of the century, was a pituitary dwarf, she adds.

Other forms of dwarfism do not respond to treatment, adds Otto, "but do require medical care."

Some "little people" have a curvature of the spine, he explains, and often the backbone pinches the spinal cord, causing paralysis in some cases. Complicated surgery to correct the condition is required, he adds, "and the research on members of our club helped doctors develop it."

"And, though none of the research has been able to help many of us," says Dora Bohmann, "children now growing up will benefit from it — which makes it worthwhile."

Neither Otto nor Dora feel that their small size should set them apart.

"Every time I go out I see people a lot worse off than I am," Otto says.

Living in a world designed for people larger than they are does, however, create a few problems.

"When we go shopping, we like to have Mary Anne with us," says Dora Bohmann, "because she's tall enough to reach things from the top shelves of stores."

Kitchen counters are a little too high for Dora Bohmann, and she uses a special stool when she's cooking or working at the sink.

The "Little People of America" club manual also suggests pulling drawers out to form steps to reach the top of a tall dresser, and Otto says that another club member developed a telescoping gadget to enable "little people" to push elevator buttons.

"I don't need it myself," he says, "but some of our members do."

A sense of humor also is an asset.

Otto remembers walking to school in his native Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, and being patted on the head by passing children — many of whom were younger than he.

"I didn't especially like it," he grins, "so, since I wore a beret to school, I fixed a straight pin in it, pointing straight up. After that, one pat was all it took — and the kids didn't do that any more."

Dora Bohmann remembers visiting a friend in her native Carrington, N.D., who had a daughter whom Dora hadn't seen in about six months.

"The little girl told me that she was going to be a nurse when she grew up," Dora laughs, "She then turned to me and said, 'What are you going to be when you grow up?'"

"It didn't bother me," Dora insists, "because I thought it was just plain funny." Mary Anne Bohmann, now a third grader, doesn't seem to mind having "little people" for parents who are rapidly becoming shorter than she is, say her parents.

"She accepts the situation," says Dora Bohmann.

Discipline, too, will never be a problem, adds Mrs. Bohmann, "because dealing with children is all a matter of common sense."

Both Dora and Otto are very active in their church, St. Julie Billiard Catholic Church in Newbury Park.

"Our faith has helped us always," says Dora Bohmann. "In addition, if you have a set of values and live your life by them, you won't ever have any real problems."

Next month they plan to attend the regional meeting of the "Little People of America," scheduled for Oct. 28 and 29 at the Holiday Inn in Santa Barbara.

"Maybe there are others in The Conejo who are also eligible to join," says Otto, a past-president of the club. "If there are, we hope that they will attend the meeting, because it's a wonderful bunch of people."



Measuring up

Mary Anne Bohmann, left, only nine years old, already tops her mother, Dora Bohmann, by a good five inches. Mary Anne's height comes in handy when something needs to be plucked from a high shelf. (News-Chronicle Photos by Peg Dungan.)

Lori Barty
First prize - Child
making Easter basket



First Prize
Aileen Garman

April 21, '73
L.A. Chapter
Easter
Party
Rancho Del Valle



Renee Wittmer
Louis Scharrer

Otto,
Ellis,
Izzy



Marianne
Becker
Louis
Scharrer

Easter Party
Rancho Del Valle

MEDICINE

All in the Family

Few expenses have risen more rapidly in recent years than the cost of illness. That may be a source of financial concern to patients and insurance companies, but not to physicians. They and their families generally get their doctoring free or at a discount from fellow physicians, who maintain a tradition known as professional courtesy. "It's just something you expect," says one doctor's wife. "It's like a Mafia—the family takes care of its own."

No one knows for sure how the practice of professional courtesy started. But it may well have begun with the 2,300-year-old Hippocratic oath, which exhorts physicians to regard other doctors as brothers. Modern standards reinforce the custom. The A.M.A.'s code of ethics, which urges physicians not to treat themselves or their families, holds that they should cheerfully provide care for other doctors and their dependents.

Compliment. Though interpretations of just how far professional courtesy should extend vary from one individual to another, most doctors willingly comply with the code. They treat other physicians, their wives and their immediate families for nothing, performing everything from routine examinations to major surgery. Some provide free care to medical students, nurses and hospital employees, and a few even offer discounts to clergymen. But there is one branch of medicine in which professional courtesy is seldom offered: psychiatry. Because psychotherapy may take months or even years, most psychiatrists feel that they cannot afford to waive their fees. Some

doctors tend to respond in kind by billing psychiatrists fully for any treatment provided.

Most doctors do not feel put upon by the demands of professional courtesy. Dr. Allen Charles, a Chicago obstetrician and gynecologist, delivers from three to six doctors' wives each month without charge. "I guess I should take it as a personal compliment when a doctor sends his wife to me," he says. Dr. Hugh Miller, a Newton, Mass., internist, feels that caring for colleagues is one of the things that sets doctors apart from others. "If you're a tradesman, then act like one," he says. "If you're a professional, then you should offer professional courtesy."

Despite the strong hold that the custom has in the medical community, a growing number of doctors would like to see it eliminated or at least curtailed. Some argue that receiving free medical care makes it awkward to be critical about the treatment if it is unsatisfactory. Others feel that friends may be unwilling to perform embarrassing but vital procedures. For example, in giving a doctor friend a general checkup, one physician failed to perform a rectal examination. The patient was later found to have inoperable cancer of the prostate.

Many doctors, reluctant to impose on other physicians, may avoid seeking treatment. "It leads to an uncomfortable sense of obligation," says an internist at North Shore Hospital in Manhasset, L.I. Others attempt to ease guilt feelings by sending expensive gifts to doctors who have treated them.

To avoid these situations, some doctors have begun to insist upon paying for any care provided by a colleague. "I tell them I will pay my own way or I won't come," says Dr. Donald Johnson, a Manhattan gynecologist. "That way I don't have to send a bottle of booze or something." Others are taking out policies to cover doctors' bills and demanding that those who treat them accept at least whatever the insurance companies allow. But their rebellion is not likely to spread very far. The majority of doctors seem more than willing to abide by the ancient advice of Hippocrates.

Helping the Little People

Since early childhood, Erick Carstensen, 14, has suffered because of his stature: he is a victim of hereditary dwarfism. Erick's contemporaries, who generally towered over him, excluded him from their games. Teachers were often equally unsympathetic, calling him "Shorty" and browbeating him for his inability to keep up with his classmates in physical education. Even the doctors consulted by his parents provided little in the way of relief. Accord-



U.C.L.A.'S RIMOIN WITH PATIENTS
Not all are alike.

ing to Erick's mother, Mrs. Dorothy Carstensen of Los Angeles: "They'd all say the same thing: 'Don't worry about it. He'll shoot up overnight.'"

Erick has indeed been growing at a faster rate than most of the other 50,000 dwarfs in the U.S. have experienced. But that is only because he has had expert medical help; six months ago, his mother enrolled him in the dwarf clinic operated by the University of California at Los Angeles, the only facility in the world devoted exclusively to the treatment and study of dwarfism. There, twice a week, he receives an injection of a pituitary hormone, the primary substance that triggers human growth. He has grown 2½ in. (to 4 ft. 10 in.) since treatment was started, and the clinic doctors are confident that he will now reach a height of at least five feet.

Short Supply. The dwarf clinic, now marking its second anniversary, is the creation of Dr. David Rimoin, a U.C.L.A. geneticist and one of the world's leading authorities on dwarfism. Rimoin believes that the condition (which occurs once in every 10,000 births in the U.S.) is almost universally misunderstood, largely because so few doctors have taken the trouble to learn about it. Says he: "To most doctors, all dwarfs look alike."

Most doctors might see only one dwarf professionally during their careers; Rimoin's clinic, located at Los Angeles' Harbor General Hospital and staffed by ten physicians, sees 500 a year. Rimoin and his colleagues can now identify at least 50 types of dwarfism, and have determined the causes of many of these abnormalities. Midg-



PROFESSIONAL COURTESY

MEDICINE

ets, who are tiny but normally proportioned, are usually victims of an underactive pituitary gland, a pea-sized organ at the base of the brain that is largely responsible for the secretion of growth hormone (HGH). Other dwarfs, who tend to have normal-sized heads and trunks but extremely short arms and legs, usually have different hormone deficiencies.

Like Erick, most midgets, or pituitary dwarfs, can be helped to achieve near-normal growth through injections of HGH. But while efforts are under way to synthesize the substance in large amounts, HGH can now be obtained only from the pituitaries of human cadavers, which are in short supply. Rimoin estimates that 25% of the midget population could be helped by hormone therapy; at present, only 10% are able to obtain treatment.

Heaven Sent. The Los Angeles clinic also deals with many of the other problems connected with dwarfism. Some dwarfs have severe spinal defects that can lead to paralysis if not promptly treated. Others suffer from deteriorating vision and a wide variety of orthopedic problems that most doctors cannot correctly diagnose or treat. Mrs. Estrella Sberna of Los Angeles took her daughter Mary Lou, 12, to dozens of different doctors for problems ranging from a cleft palate to flat feet. But it was only at the clinic that Mary Lou began to receive proper treatment after doctors diagnosed her condition as Kniest syndrome, a type of dwarfism in which the cartilage is dotted with holes.

Actor Michael Dunn, 38, who is best known for his performance in the film *Ship of Fools*, consulted several specialists in search of a cure for the arthritis he feared might force him to give up show business. He finally found help at the clinic, where surgeons operated to tighten his knee ligaments and reduce the pain in his legs. That surgery, says Dunn, saved his career.

Others credit the clinic with preserving their sanity. Los Angeles Housewife Shirley Figone, who is normal sized, was upset about her dwarf son Chris, 2, until Rimoin arranged for her to meet a dwarf couple with the opposite problem—their normal-sized daughter was embarrassed by them. The meeting helped breach the isolation that so often surrounds dwarfs and their families. "We're saving a scrapbook for Chris, cutting out any newspaper stories we can find concerning little people," says Mrs. Figone. "We want him to know that he's not alone."

Rimoin believes that most dwarfs can be helped, physically and mentally. Indeed, he says, even Tom Thumb, the midget exhibited and exploited by Circus Impresario P.T. Barnum, could have achieved near-normal growth had treatment been available 100 years ago. But with that treatment, Rimoin admits, Tom would probably never have become rich and famous.

TIME, MAY 7, 1973

*'The little people'
are a medical mystery*

What causes dwarfism?

There are hundreds of causes of dwarfism—disease, improper nutrition, glandular disorders, hormone failure and inherited short stature just to name a few. All the causes of slow growth are too voluminous to deal with here but some of the more common types are listed below.

CHROMOSOMAL DISORDERS—The most common chromosomal disorder is called the Turner's syndrome which is found only in girls. While scientists have been able to identify the chromosome abnormality they have not yet discovered its cause nor its cure. Girls with Turner's syndrome rarely grow to 5' tall and do not develop normal sexual characteristics.

INHERITED SHORT STATURE—Short parents tend to produce short children making genetic short stature the most prevalent of all types of dwarfism in the United States. Scientists are currently experimenting with human growth hormone (HGH) injections to help these children grow taller. Without help, some may grow no taller than 5' but will be normal in all other development.

DELAYED PUBERTY—Normal adolescents experience a spurt of growth during puberty but some have a delayed puberty of 2 to 6 years. By the time they experience puberty their bone structure is too mature to react to a growth spurt and many of these children remain short. This delay is often inherited from one or both parents.

BONE DISEASES—A recent scientific paper listed over 100 distinct bone diseases associated with short stature. Their medical names are usually tongue-twisters like achondroplasia, fibrous dysplasia, hypophosphatasia, mucopolysaccharidoses, osteogenesis imperfecta, etc. They result in deformed, shortened or otherwise abnormally developed bones for thousands of children. One of the most common of these is achondroplasia which is characterized by a pronounced shortness of the arms and legs while the head is frequently large and the trunk normal size.

PRIMARY GROWTH DISTURBANCES—Children with primary growth disturbances seem to have body cells that do not respond to the usual growth promoting factors. They have small proportional bodies and some have associated malformations of the head, ears, skin, brain or one side of the body. One example is intrauterine growth retardation.

SECONDARY GROWTH FAILURE—Serious disease and strong drugs used in the treatment of disease may stunt growth. The

disease or drugs may disturb bodily functions and produce an imbalance severe enough to slow down growth. Loss of appetite, damage to vital organs, vitamin and mineral imbalance, etc., can all result in poor growth and can all be caused by disease or drugs.

HORMONE FAILURE—Growth is controlled by hormones produced by the pituitary gland. An organ about the size of a pea, the pituitary must produce enough human growth hormone (HGH) to affect normal growth. When it does not, hypopituitary dwarfism occurs. An adult hypopituitary dwarf may look like a child of 10 and usually has arrested sexual development. However, intellectual development, as in the case of most types of dwarfism, will be normal.

NUTRITIONAL SHORT STATURE—Chronic malnutrition will prevent children from reaching their full genetic growth potential. Most common among these are children with a protein deficiency. If a child remains protein starved until the age of 5, the growth damage will be permanent.

Can dwarfism be cured?

Until recently little attention has been paid to the causes and cures of dwarfism. Research now is being conducted in all types of growth problems. With an estimated 500,000 children in the United States suffering from growth problems, this research is extremely important and long overdue.

One of the first breakthroughs in growth research was the discovery that human growth hormone could be extracted from the pituitary gland and injected into hypopituitary dwarfs to induce growth. Since 1963, HGH has been used in tightly controlled research projects to stimulate growth in over 500 dwarfed children. HGH promises to be a solution to hypopituitary dwarfism and a possible help to some other causes of dwarfism. Unfortunately, the supply of HGH depends directly on the donations of human pituitary glands—animal glands are not useable. Each child on the program needs from 50 to 200 pituitaries per year and the annual pituitary donations are only enough to accommodate a very limited number of children. Most of the children suffering from hypopituitary dwarfism cannot receive HGH treatments because there simply aren't enough pituitary gland donations to cover the need.

Synthesized hormone may be the next step in solving this problem. In early 1971, HGH was synthesized for the first time. It will take many more years to discover

Is dwarfism really a handicap?

how to produce the synthesized hormone in quantities large enough to help the many dwarfed children who need it. And for some, it will be too late. Once a child's growth years end (usually between 17 and 21) HGH can no longer stimulate further growth.

To some, it isn't. The pygmies of central Africa, the Negritos of the Philippines and New Guinea and the natives of the Andaman Islands in the Indian Ocean have been dwarfs for centuries. But in the American culture where the average male height is 5' 10" dwarfism presents a very real problem.

First, there is the physical problem of being too small to reach ordinary things like pay telephones, drinking fountains, mail boxes, wash bowls, door handles, elevator buttons and so much more. Then there is the problem of being too small to participate in normal activities like sports, dancing, bicycling, driving, etc. Then there is the exceptional difficulty in shopping, finding a job, leading a "normal" life in a world too large for some little people to handle.

Most tragically, there is a psychological problem that all dwarfs must learn to handle. The jeers of classmates, the stares from adults, the jokes, the teasing, the loneliness of being "different" all present serious problems to dwarfs. Many overcome them with the support of well-informed, loving parents and friends. Others are not so fortunate and add life-long

psychological problems to their already handicapped bodies.

Who can help a dwarf?

Everyone of us can help overcome the problems of dwarfism by:

1. Providing friendship and understanding to dwarfed children and adults. Treat them as individuals who want to be judged on their abilities and achievements, not on their stature.
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3. Supporting growth research with your contribution to the Human Growth Foundation. All donations are tax deductible.
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SHORT STATURE CLINIC

Harbor General Hospital — UCLA School of Medicine
Division of Medical Genetics
Departments of Pediatrics and Medicine

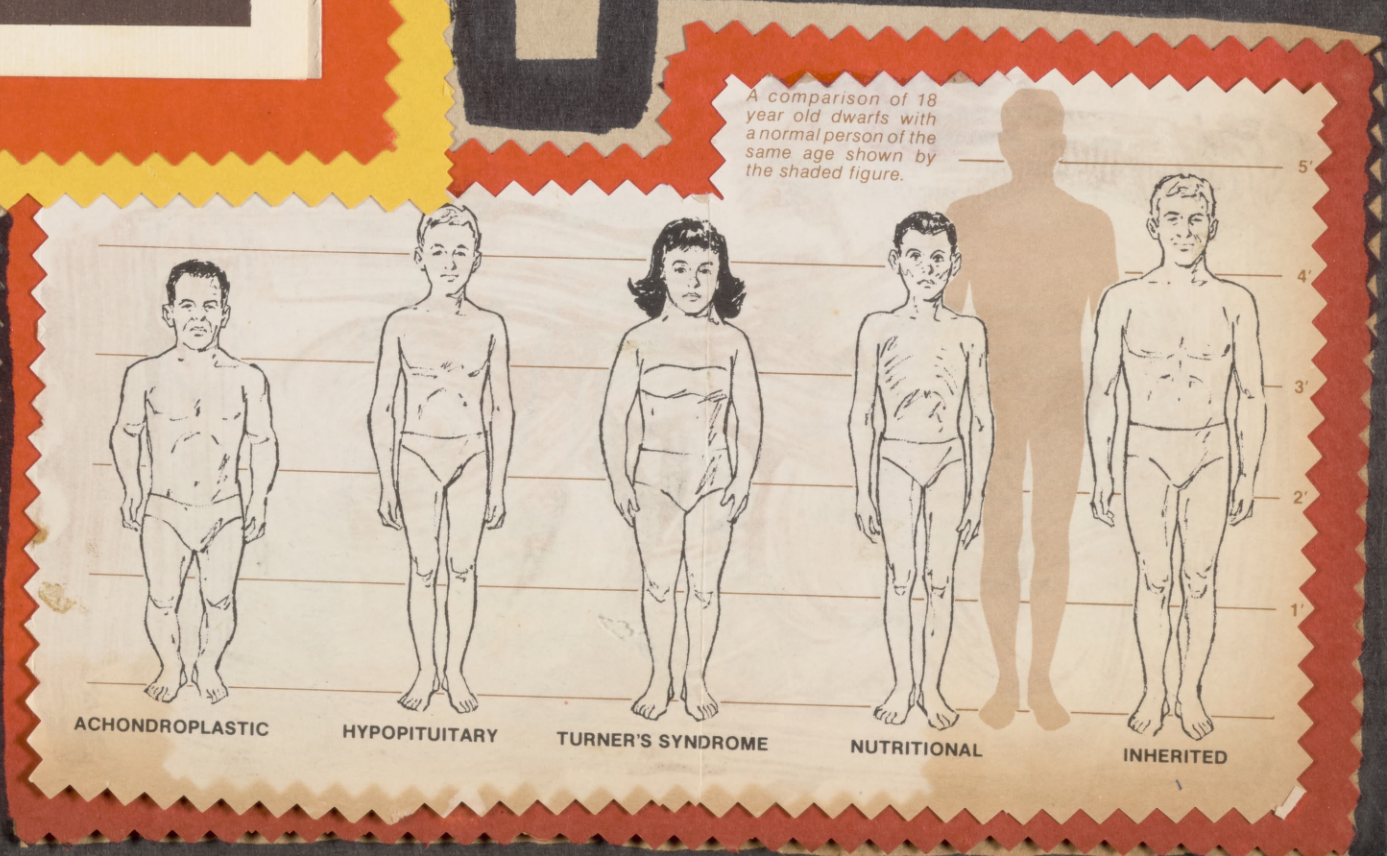
MEDICAL STAFF:

David L. Rimoin, M.D., Ph.D., Director
David W. Hollister, M.D.
Ralph S. Lachman, M.D.
Michael M. Kaback, M.D.
Ray E. Stewart, D.M.D., M.S.

COORDINATOR:

Florence M. DeNice, R.N.

DIVISION OF MEDICAL GENETICS
HARBOR GENERAL HOSPITAL
1000 WEST CARSON STREET
TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA 90509
(213) 328-2380 OR 775-7711
EXTENSION 1441



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Short stature is a common problem that has many causes. Some individuals are short because they come from relatively short families; others are short because they had poor nutrition or chronic diseases during childhood. On the other hand, short stature can be caused by a large number of disorders which result primarily in decreased growth. In general, short stature can be divided into two major types: proportionate short stature, in which the body proportions are normal, and disproportion short stature, in which the limbs are short relative to the body or vice versa. Proportionate short stature can be due to a variety of causes such as growth hormone deficiency, prenatal growth problems, chromosomal diseases such as Turner's syndrome, etc. Disproportionate short stature is usually caused by a number of disorders that primarily affect the bones — the chondrodystrophies. It is extremely important to make an accurate diagnosis as to the exact type of short stature since the treatment, prognosis and risk of having other affected children differs in each type. For example, children with growth hormone deficiency (pituitary dwarfism) can be treated with injections of growth hormone, but growth hormone is of no value to children with other forms of short stature. Growth in girls with Turner's syndrome can be stimulated to some degree with steroid hormones, and they will need sex hormones when they become teenagers for sexual development. There is no adequate form of growth stimulant presently available for children with the chondrodystrophies, but they often require special orthopedic treatment, eye examinations, hearing tests, etc. We have thus established a special short stature clinic at Harbor General Hospital where an accurate diagnosis of the type of short stature can be made and appropriate treatment and counseling provided.

The Short Stature Clinic is a diagnostic, counseling and treatment center for all forms of short stature. The Clinic is staffed by physicians with broad experience in the problems associated with short stature. Consultation with a variety of other specialists is also readily available.

PERSONS WITH SHORT STATURE WHO WANT TO OBTAIN THE BENEFITS OF RECENT MEDICAL ADVANCES MAY COME TO THE CLINIC FOR:

- (1) accurate diagnosis (specific type of dwarfism);
- (2) advice about family planning (most types of short stature are inherited);
- (3) orthopedic evaluation and treatment of bone and joint problems;
- (4) neurosurgical evaluation and treatment for nerve pain and compression;

- (5) obstetrical care and counseling;
- (6) dental evaluation;
- (7) other problems associated with short stature.

ARRANGEMENTS TO ATTEND THE SHORT STATURE CLINIC MAY BE MADE BY CONTACTING:

Florence M. DeNise, R.N., Coordinator
Harbor General Hospital
1000 West Carson Street
Torrance, California 90509
(213) 775-7711 or (213) 328-2380
Extension 1441

The Short Stature Clinic meets each Thursday morning. Persons attending the Clinic come to Harbor General Hospital at 9 a.m. After being measured, patients are evaluated and then presented to the clinic staff. Ordinarily the Clinic ends at 12 noon, but patients should be prepared to remain into the afternoon if X-rays or special tests are required. A cafeteria is available for lunch.

PERSONS ATTENDING THE CLINIC ARE URGED TO BRING THE FOLLOWING:

- (1) Previous medical records, especially X-rays;
- (2) Records of birth weight, growth and development at various ages and photographs;
- (3) Family history and names and addresses of family members with similar problems (if possible, bring these people with you to clinic).

The Division of Medical Genetics is conducting a number of studies to learn the cause and treatment of all forms of short stature. The benefits of these programs are available to those attending the Clinic. No one is required to participate in any study program, however. Participation is limited to those who volunteer and have some condition currently under study.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

A small fee is charged for clinic attendance. This fee includes the cost of blood tests, X-rays and other special examinations. Families may often be seen for the cost of a single person, providing laboratory tests or X-rays are not required. If admission to the hospital is necessary, hospitalization costs for treatment are determined by the Harbor General Hospital Administration.

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To some, it isn't. The pygmies of central Africa, the Negritos of the Philippines and New Guinea and the natives of the Andaman Islands in the Indian Ocean have been dwarfs for centuries. But in the American culture where the average male height is 5' 10" dwarfism presents a very real problem.

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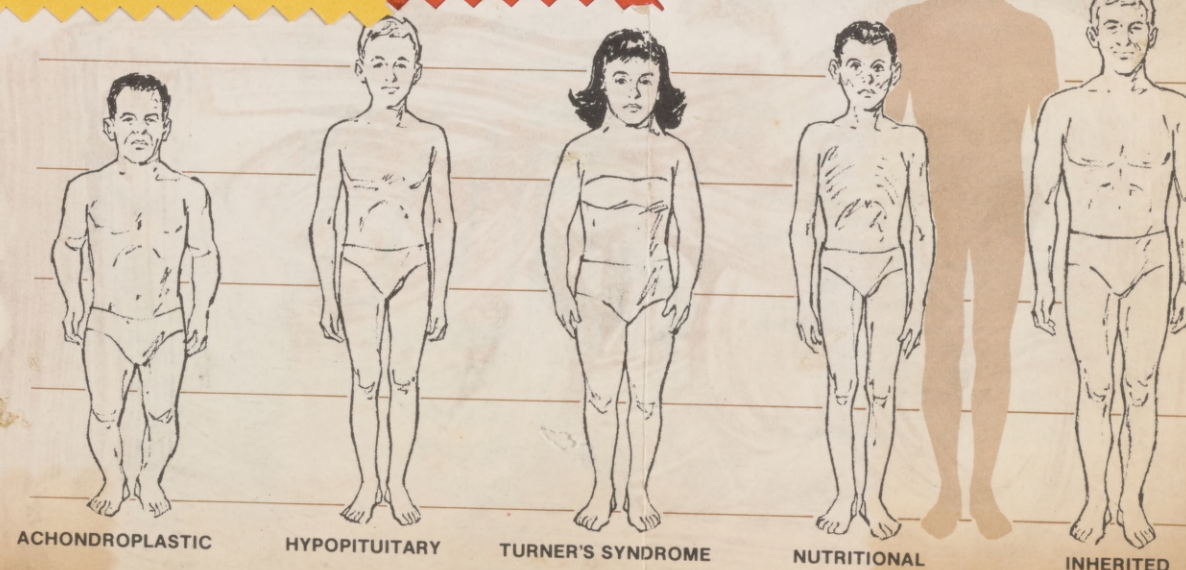
Who can help a dwarf?

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A comparison of 18 year old dwarfs with a normal person of the same age shown by the shaded figure.



ART'S GALLERY *by Art Fuley*



Loan me a fiver, Alice . . . I'm
a little short

251

Midgets Starring In Drama

HOLLYWOOD — Midgets are often used as doubles for children in motion pictures but in "Little Cigars" five midgets are starring as well as performing their own stunts.

Now shooting in Los Angeles, "Little Cigars" is the story of a midget crime gang

that takes the country by storm. The "mini-mob" includes Billy Curtis, Felix Silla, Jerry Maren, Emory Souza and Frank Delfino.

All are experienced actors and have often doubled for children's stunts, but none expected the variety

of stunts called for in "Little Cigars."

Roger Creed, stunt coordinator for the picture, says that working with the little people is actually very easy because of their natural agility and amazing physical strength.

"We've had them climbing walls, being thrown across rooms, getting into fights with big people and even being tied in laundry bags and thrown onto a conveyor belt. They're amazing. They just take it all in stride. They're natural stuntmen."

"Little Cigars" also stars Angel Tompkins.

MEET BIG CLEO and
HER MURDEROUS
MIDGETS!

The
**Little
Cigars**
Mob

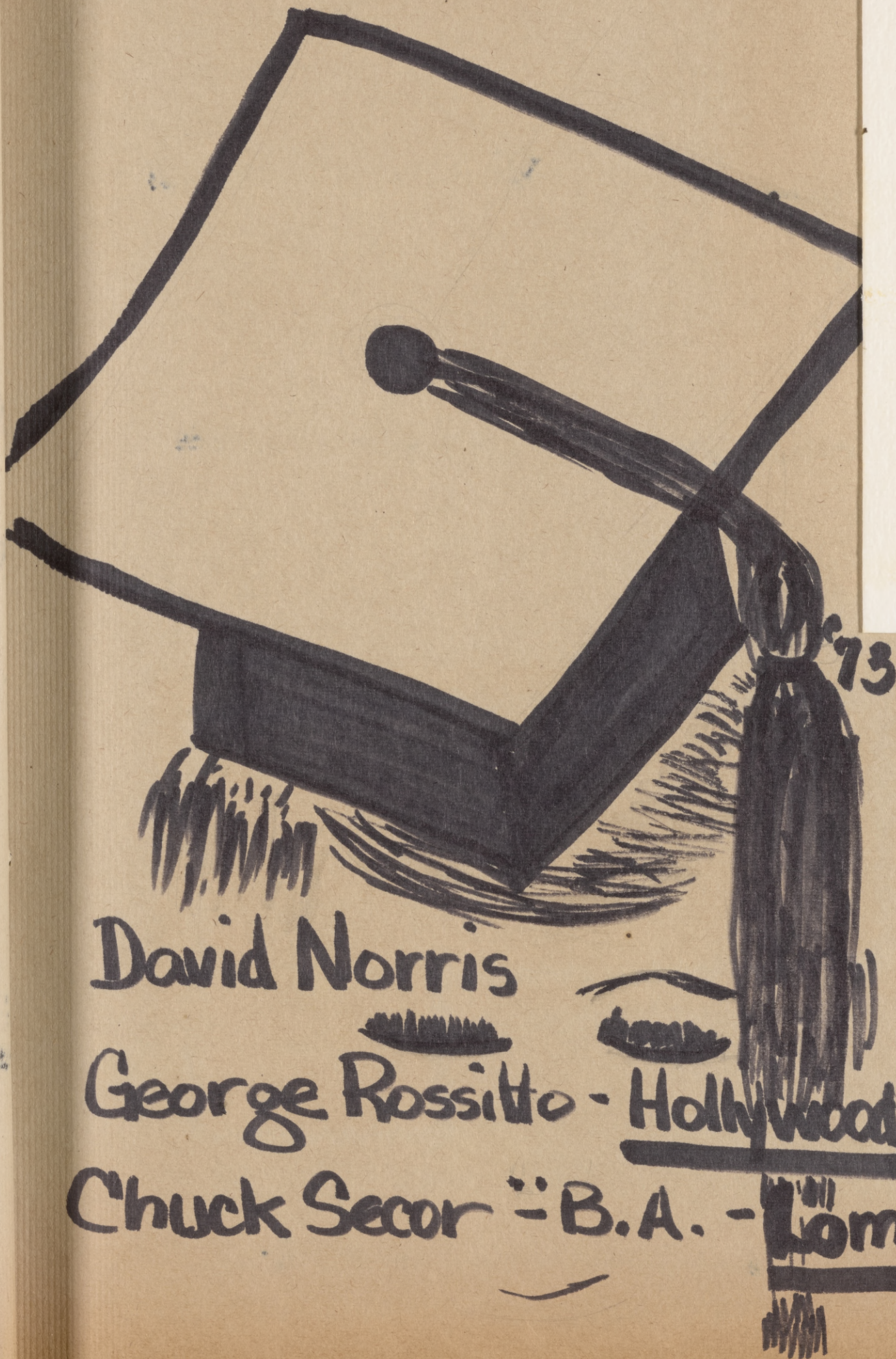


an American International Picture COLOR by Movielab

Graduation Day



Class of Seventy-three



David Norris

George Rossitto - Hollywood High

Chuck Secor - B.A. - Loma Linda University

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The
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an American International Picture COLOR by Mowbray

Graduation Day

*The Senior Class of
Nineteen Hundred Seventy-three
Hollywood High School
announces its
Commencement Exercises
Thursday afternoon, June fourteenth
at four o'clock
Hollywood Bowl*

David Norris

George Rossitto - Hollywood High

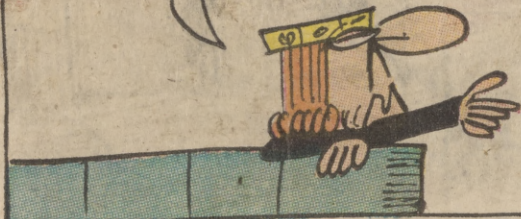
Chuck Secor - B.A. - Loma Linda University

THE WIZARD OF ID

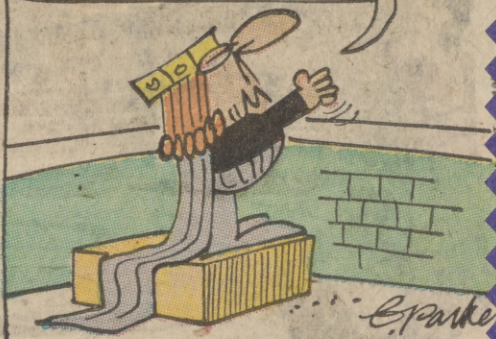
by parker and hart



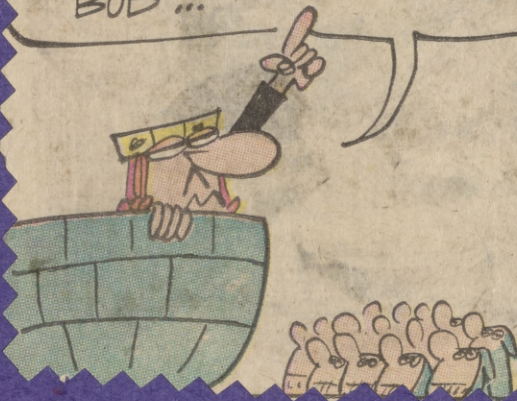
"ALL PEOPLE OVER THREE FEET HIGH WILL WALK IN A CROUCH AND ONLY SHORT BEERS WILL BE SERVED IN THE LOCAL PUBS



MEDIUM AND LONG SUITS SHALL BE REMOVED FROM ALL RACKS



LONG STEMMED ROSES WILL BE NIPPED IN THE BUD ...



...AND THE WORDS RUNT... SHORTY AND PEEWEE WILL BE STRICKEN FROM THE LANGUAGE!



THE KING IS A DIMINUTIVE FINK



GET ME A LIST OF EVERYBODY WHO GOT PAST THE THIRD GRADE!



Midgets have ups and downs

By Bruce Lewis

LOS ANGELES—(CNS)—A car full of "little people" traveling through a scorching Arizona desert pulled into a small gas station and they all piled out.

The station attendant gawked. Apparently, he had never seen dwarfs before.

"It sure is a hot day," the attendant said to the five little people.

"Yes, it sure is," replied one of the five. "Look how much I have dehydrated since we began our trip. I don't remember being this small when we left."

The attendant's mouth dropped open. He didn't know what to say.

It was a common reaction to people who medically are considered "dwarfs."

"It's the children you see on the street that react most to me," said Shirley Rosenberg, who is normal in every way except the size of her limbs.

"Some kids say, 'Look, mom, a midget lady.' You see people staring at you who are trying not to stare. A few people are obnoxious. And then there are always a few older persons who just smile.

"I smile back," said Mrs. Rosenberg, 43, the owner of Shirley's Gifts, in nearby North Hollywood. "parents will jerk their children by the arm when they say things to me. That's the worst thing they can do.

"I usually go over to the child and parent and start talking to them. I like them to know that I am like everyone else."

★ ★ ★

Mrs. Rosenberg says there is a general notion among the public that people who are dwarfs are mental mid-

gets. She attributed the belief particularly to the role of little people in circuses.

And the mistaken assumption that lack of growth of some parts of a body means an accompanying lack of mental ability.

Mrs. Rosenberg is one of 70 kinds of dwarfs, she says. Her torso is of normal size. Her head is slightly large for her body. But her arms and legs are short.

When she was a child her mother told her she was missing a bone in her arm to explain the shortness.

"I accepted that explanation and never thought much of it. My family understood my medical problem and taught me to cope with it," says Mrs. Rosenberg.

"When I had to reach for something, my father told me to get a stool and to get it," she said. "I always managed to get what I wanted."

★ ★ ★

In the small shop Mrs. Rosenberg owns there is a post office. With the help of an employe she operates the contract postal service and gift shop. She has owned the business for 20 years.

"I use a stool when I'm behind the counter in our little post office," she says. (The combination of the 6-inch box and her own 54 inches brings her to the needed height.)

"Being small presents some funny situations," she continued. "Often I'll be standing behind the desk in the post office section and a customer will look at me

and tell me not to get up.

"Instead of embarrassing the person I wait a few minutes and then very casually walk out and ask them if I can give some help."

★ ★ ★

Most dwarfs with small limbs like Mrs. Rosenberg waddle when they walk. "I guess I'm fortunate in that respect," she says. "My father told me to walk nor-

mally and said I would be glad someday.

"I am glad! It makes me appear normal in every way except size.

"I guess I am more fortunate than some."

Finding clothes is no problem for the graying lady.

"I wear a size eight mini-skirt. I don't know what to do when the minis go out of style. I certainly couldn't wear the maxis," she laughed.

Sometimes she has to order shoes from the East. But she occasionally finds shoes to fit her wide foot.

Her husband, Mickey, a 54-year-old Lockheed-California Co. worker, has

trouble finding shoes. His 4-foot 8-inch frame (rather large for a dwarf) has the length of a boy, but the width of a man.

The Rosenbergs have been married for three years. They have no children and plan none.

She says, "It wouldn't be fair to have them at our age." There is the possibility the children would be born normal which presents a problem.

Can you imagine your 7-

year-old daughter stooping to kiss you if you were a dwarf?

How do you explain that your parents are dwarfs?

★ ★ ★

Both of the Rosenbergs come from families of normal size as do most of their friends. In many cases there has been no family history of dwarfism.

Dwarfism, in its many different forms, is a medical

What It's Like to Go Through Life as a Dwarf

mystery which doctors at Harbor General Hospital in suburban Torrance and the University of California at Los Angeles Medical Center are working on.

Little People of America, formed by Bill Barty, the 48-year-old show business veteran who had his own television show, was started to help little people. (Dwarfs refer to themselves as "little people.")

Barty, 3-9, says the organ-

ization is to help dwarfs find their way in the world. "It's not just a social club to arrange marriages, although that happens."

The group helps members to find employment and solve obvious problems, especially emotional adjustment.

Mrs. Rosenberg says the group is especially good for scientists and doctors who are researching the causes of dwarfism.



SMALL BUSINESS — Shirley Rosenberg, who owns a gift shop in North Hollywood, Calif., waits on a customer. A stool and occasional help from an employee are all she needs to run the shop.

(Copley News Photo)



Sam Roloff

SAM ROLOFF, Right, age six, of Penn Grove, brushes up for Saturday's Rohnert Park Open Chess Tournament by jumping Steve Walters, nine, also of Penn Grove. Sam practiced here Monday night at the Rohnert Park Chess Club.

The two-day tournament starts at 10 a.m. Saturday at Community Center. C.E. Falbo of Rohnert Park is co-ordinator of the meet, sponsored by the Cultural Arts Corp. Cash prizes total \$100. Entry fee is \$5 and \$2 for children 15 and younger.



Kevin Thompson

Kids In Action



NEWEST ADDITION - Children relax on the new pads that were given to the Sebastopol Public Library by the Friends of the Library. The children can relax on them during story tell-

ing hour instead of the cold cement. This is just one of the many gifts given to the library by the Sebastopol Friends of the Library.

Dobie Jennison



Joy Campbell Frank Law



Lori Barty Braden Barty



THE BERRY'S



1972

Heather Garman



Debbie Dixon
Lois Gerage



Judy Badewsky



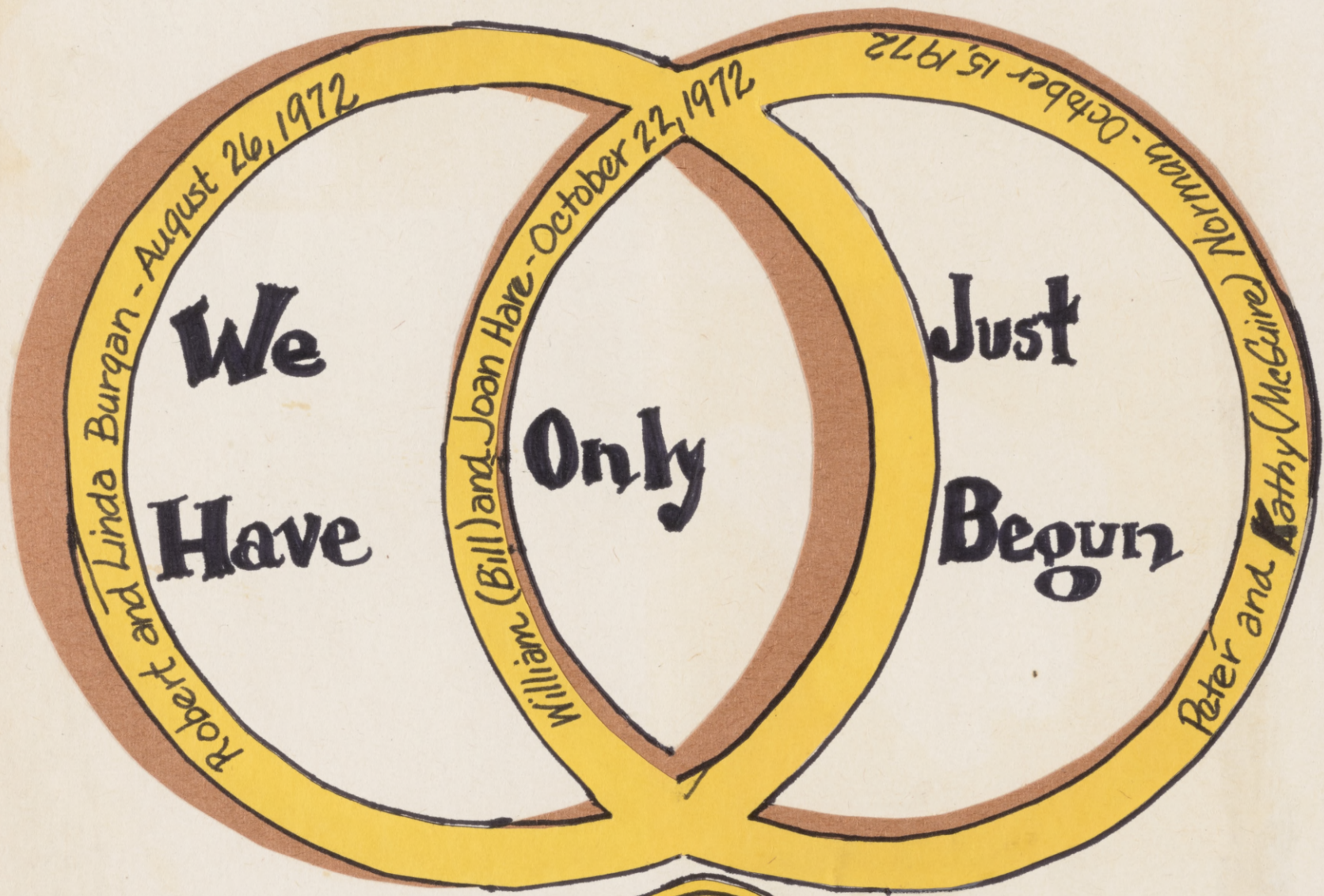
Danny Norvell



Heather Garman



Monique Hamilton

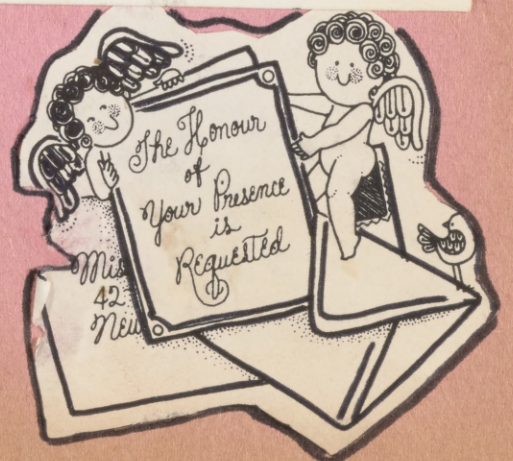


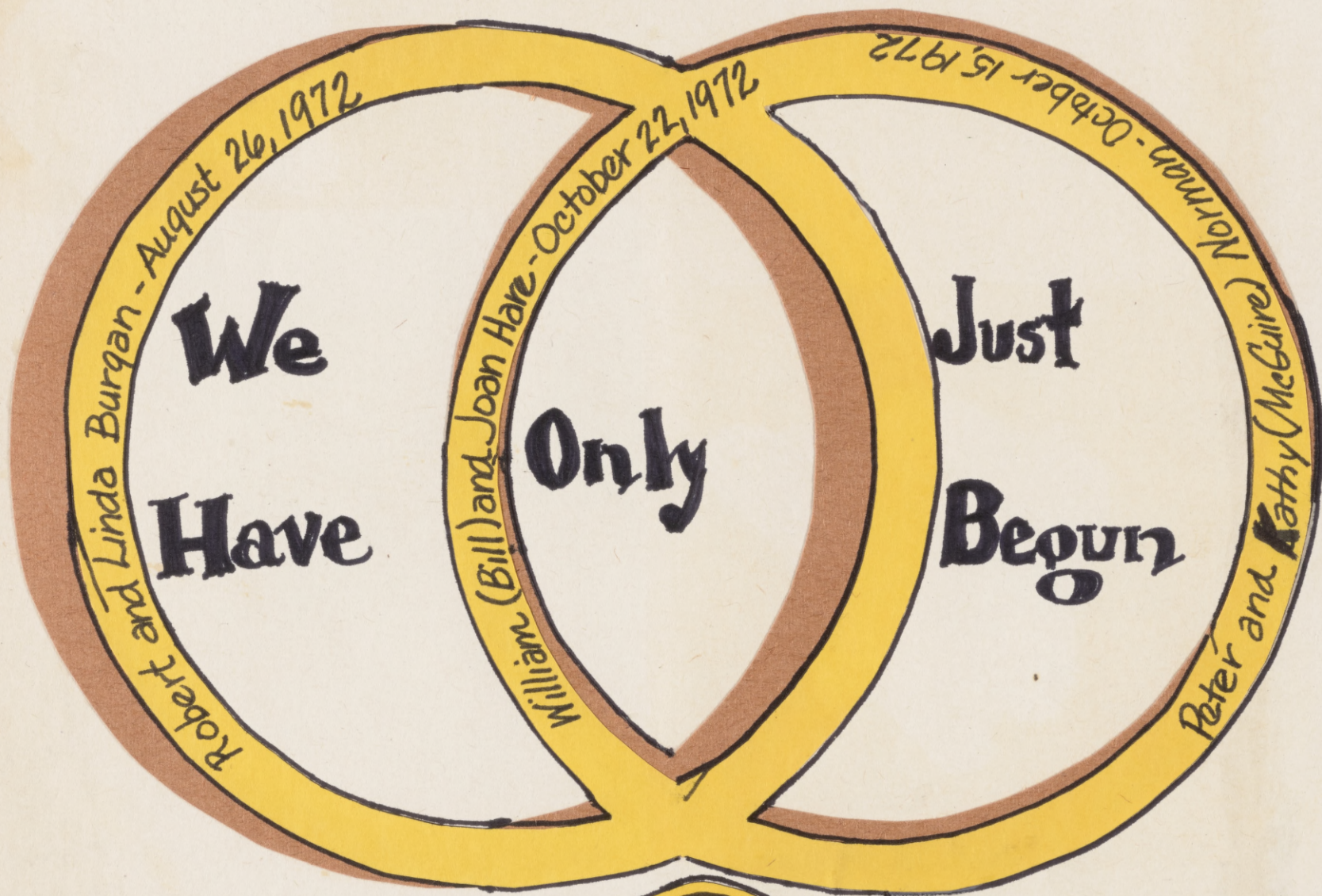


Mr. and Mrs. William T. Hare III
October 22, 1972



Mr. and Mrs.
Robert Burgan, who were wed on August 26, 1972.







My daughter, *Linda Marie*, will be married to Mr. Robert Ray Burgan, on Saturday the twenty-sixth of August, nineteen hundred and seventy-two at three o'clock. Their vows will be spoken at Peace Lutheran Church, Claresholm, Alberta.

I invite you to worship with us, witness their vows and be my guest at the reception following at five o'clock in the North Peace Hall.

If you are unable to attend, I ask your presence in thought and prayer.

Mrs. Dorothy Berg



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Burgan, who were wed on August 26, 1972.





Felix Silla

Jerry Maren

Billy Barty



Jerry Maren / Felix Silla / Billy Barty

Oakland
Convention
Planning
Weekend
May 4, 5, 6, '73

Welcome to
OAKLAND



LPA
DISTRICT 12

Oakland Convention Planning Weekend May 4, 5, 6, 1973

CONVENTION PLANNING WEEKEND - DISTRICT 12 MAY 4, 5, 6 - 1973 Oakland Hilton

Friday, May 4 - Registration ^{6:00 P.M.} to?
Mingling - Mingling -

Saturday, May 5

B.F.T. and lunch on your own -
8:00 A.M. - DISTRICT BOARD MTG.

9:30 A.M. GENERAL MEETING -
Convention Reports -

1:30 P.M. - SHORT STATURE CONFERENCE
Panel - AL STICKNEY - Dist. Director
DR DAVID RIMOIN
DR DON JEWETT

6:30 P.M. - SOLITA HOUR

7:00 P.M. - BANQUET - TERRACE
ROOMS -
ROAST BEEF AU JUS - ENTREE
Salad - potatoe - beverage - dessert

DOCUMENTARY FILM - LPA
DANCING -

Sunday, May 6 -

9:30 A.M. - Closing General Meeting

Have a
safe trip
home -

Thanks
for
coming

See
you
July 23-27

CONVENTION PLANNING COMING EVENTS - DISTRICT 12

May 12 - eve. SF BAC baseball game
(Details this weekend)

May 19 - 3:00 P.M. Rodeo Parade
Turlock - Ca. STJ group will have
a float. Do come if you can.

June 23 Annual LPA Outing -
PONZA RANCH - SOQUEL -

JULY 23-27 - Oakland Hilton
15th Annual LPA CONVENTION

A very special thank-
you to the members of
the medical profession
who took time to join
us - Hope to see you, too,
in July -

Some Little People Who Think Big

By Nancy Dooley

"Size shouldn't keep people from entering the field of their choice or from having a good time."

This is the credo of the Little People of America, whose western district is meeting today at the Oakland Hilton in preparation for their national convention in July.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Stickney, a vivacious couple from San Bruno, took time out from their preparations for the meetings yesterday to describe the Little People, some of the problems they encounter, and the way dwarfs cope with their height.

"We are working with medical research centers throughout the country to find out whatever we can about dwarfism," explains Mrs. Stickney, a former elementary school teacher who is national vice-president of LPA. She is 4'2".

Doctors Invited

To this end, they have invited several Bay Area doctors to their conference today and Dr. David Rimoin, director of the Short Stature Clinic at UCLA's Harbor General Hospital.

There is no known cure for disproportionate dwarfism, which afflicts the Stickneys. Although their bodies have a normal-size trunk, they have very short limbs.

Medical research is only one of LPA's concerns, however. The members work with average-size parents of

dwarf children "who often suffer a traumatic experience," says Mrs. Stickney.

Parental Reaction

"There is sometimes a severe reaction from parents who don't want to face the fact that their child is dwarfed," she says. "This can be very damaging to the child."

The average-size parents also counsel one another at LPA's bi-monthly meetings. "We don't know what it is to be an average-size parent," says Mrs. Stickney, "so they help each other."

LPA members are also on the look-out for federal and state legislation to aid the handicapped. Louis Scharrer, a retired budget officer who worked at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana for 28 years, examines proposed legislation "that might be of benefit to us."

Bill Vetoed

President Nixon recently vetoed a bill to create a special board within the Department of Health, Education and Welfare for the education and study of the welfare of the handicapped. The proposal was too costly.

Scharrer is hopeful, however, that the administration will soon introduce a similar, less costly bill.

Scharrer's height — 3'3" — has not stopped him from doing much.

Since his retirement in 1971, he has travelled to Hawaii, South America, the Caribbean, and the British Isles. "I try to smoke these little people out of the

wood," he laughs. "I try to get them to join our group."

Instruction

Part of the reason for today's meeting is to instruct the hotel about the Little People's needs.

Mrs. Stickney, for instance, cannot reach the clothes rack in the closet. And the registration desk in the lobby is too high. ("The best place for a little person to hide is behind the counter of an office," says Scharrer.)

Nor can dwarfs reach many towel racks, telephones, door knobs, and elevator buttons. The Hilton will solve the last problem by providing sticks to push the buttons.

Comfort

Mostly, though, the Little People of America exist because "we realize there is comfort or help knowing you're not alone," says Mrs. Stickney. The group was founded in 1957 with only 20 people, and the national membership has increased to more than 2,000. The Bay Area membership alone totals 150.

"Dwarfism has no respect for race, creed or economic condition," says Mrs. Stickney. "We make a point of enjoying life. There aren't too many fields we can't go into."

Adds her husband, Al, an airplane mechanic for United Air Lines, "Education is the key. If you have the education, you can do whatever you want."



ONE OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF BEING UNDERSIZED
Al and Harriet Stickney find hotel closets troublesome for hanging clothes

—Examiner photo by Teresa Zabala



Larry Green
Frank Law

Ron Hackl



Frank Law
Debbie Dixon

Little People Plan Parley On Dwarfism

OAKLAND (AP) — The Little People of America, western district, are meeting in Oakland this weekend to prepare for a national convention on dwarfism, its handicaps and its nonhandicaps.

The credo of the LPA is, "Size shouldn't keep people from entering the field of their choice or from having a good time."

Mrs. Al Stickney of San Bruno, a 4-foot-2-inch former elementary school teacher and national LPA vice president, said, "We are working with medical research centers throughout the country to find out whatever we can about dwarfism."



Joan Hare Bill Hare

There is no known cure for disproportionate dwarfism, which afflicts Mrs. Stickney and her husband. They have normal-size trunks, but very short limbs.

LPA members work with the traumatized average-size parents of dwarf children, in addition to aiding medical research.

The LPA likes to encourage the belief that citizens, though dwarfed, are not stopped from doing their thing, like Louis Scharrer, retired civilian budget officer who worked at Malmstrom Air Base in Montana for 28 years.

The LPA was founded in 1957 with a membership of 20. Today, the national membership is 2,000. Mrs. Stickney said the LPA exists because "we realize there is comfort or help in knowing you're not alone."



Harriet Stickney

David Becker

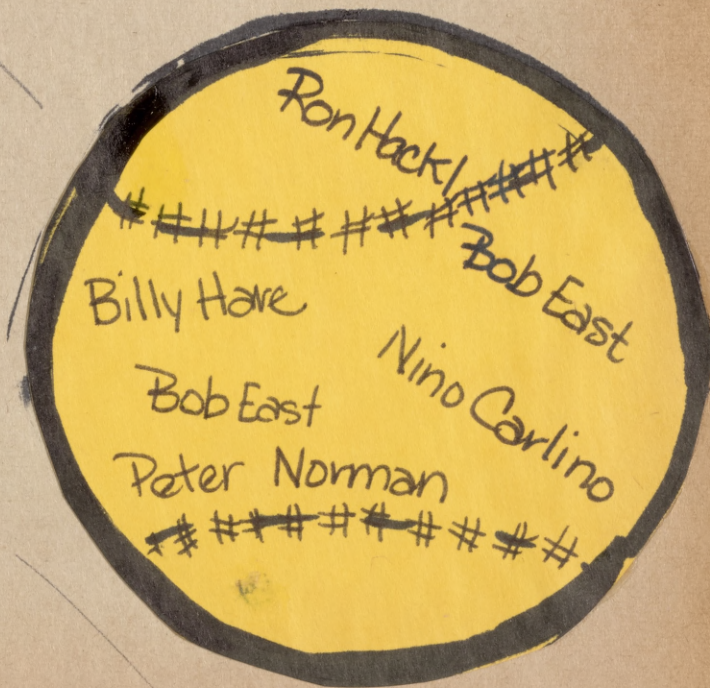
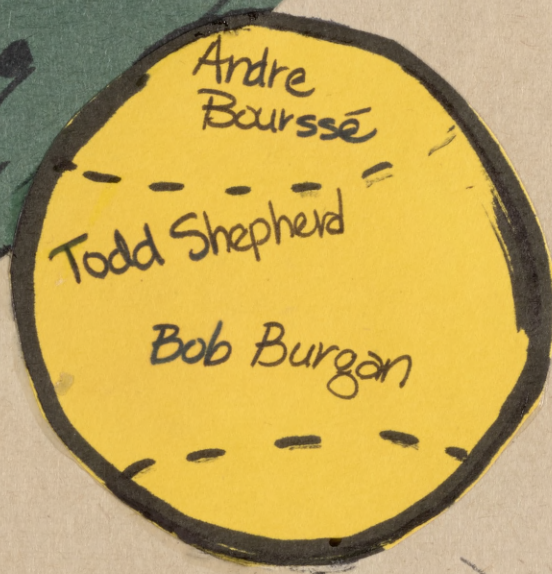


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Judy Bedenski, David Norris, Debbie Dixon
Frank Law, Lois Gerage

HOLLYWOOD SHORTIES

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Felix Silla
David Becker
George Rossitto
LeRoy Lambert

J.C. Schlais
Frank Law
Billy Curtis
Billy Barty
David Petty
Glenn Garbey
Kevin Thompson
Maren
Jerry
Larry Green





Leroy Lambart



Leroy Larry Green
Billy Barty #1 = George Rossitto



Lydia Thomas
Terry Dickenson



J.C. Schlais LeRoy

A SHORT STORY

Billy Barty Stands Tall

By DON LECHMAN
Copley News Service

Imagine you are a dwarf. If you're rich, you have a house built to your dimensions. If not, you live in an apartment with lots of stools.

Wilt Chamberlain can shove a truck as easily as you can push a cart in a supermarket.

Climbing a high curb is like scaling a mountain.

Waiting in line at a bank teller's window is as good as hiding out. She'll never see you.

Your 7-year-old daughter has to stoop to kiss you good night.

Drinking from a water fountain is a challenge, watching a parade is hopeless, going to a public rest room is traumatic.

But trying to imagine what a Lilliputian existence would be like is difficult for someone six feet, four inches tall, so I did the next best thing: I went to lunch with Billy Barty.

Billy Barty, all three feet, nine inches, is a giant among

little people. At age 48, he has been in show business 45 years, a veteran of everything from silent films to television.

But he is most revered by his peers for founding a unique organization called Little People of America. Only 20 people attended the first national convention in 1957 in Reno, Nev., but today membership tops 2,000.

Yet Billy claims that the number of dwarfs (any person who is unusually short has a form of dwarfism) in the United States ranging from 5,000 to 50,000. But many have not come out to learn to live in a king-sized world.

But he is quick to point out that only in recent times have fields other than show business begun to offer lucrative careers for little people.

"Now we have a lawyer, several high school teachers and some guys who own their own business," says Barty. That

may not sound like much but it's a start for a group that's

truly a minority.

And Little People of America is an organization to help dwarfs find their way in the world.

"It's not just a social club to arrange marriages," grins Billy, "although that happens."

The group helps members to find employment and solve obvious problems but most importantly aids them in emotional adjustment.

Most little people come from normal-sized ("I hate that word," says Barty. "What's normal?") parents who are unable to cope with raising a dwarf.

"Some parents even want to give them up for adoption — until they come to us to find out more about it," he says.

It seems that most people really don't know how to react to little people, but it's the parents who are the biggest problems.

Billy says his mother and father and two sisters are all "normal-sized."

Starting in show business at age 3, Billy said he never really knew he was small until about 16 or 17.

His career stopped awhile when he attended Los Angeles City College and Cal State, Los Angeles — where, incidentally, he played basketball.

"I majored in journalism. I wanted to be a sportscaster."

But the call to acting was greater, and Billy appeared in many television series before earning his own children's show in Los Angeles during the 1960s.

"I still don't know why it was canceled," he shakes his head.

Eventually, he married a little lady he met at a Little People's convention, and today they have two children, a boy 2-and-a-half, who is "normal size," and a girl, 10, a dwarf.

"My son comes up to here," Billy laughs, leveling his hand at his chin. His daughter has accepted her fate well.

"When she was about 5," Billy says, leaning back to launch

into a story, "she went out into the neighborhood to play. The kids knew her and accepted her as just being short. A new kid though, came up and demanded to know what was wrong."

"I'm a dorf," she said proudly. "My whole family are dorfs. You know, like Snow White and the Seven Dorfs." They got along great after that."

Billy says that "normal-sized" children have more problems with small parents — especially girls in their teens.

"It's pretty difficult for a girl to bring home her date to meet her parents," he said.

That's where Little People of America helps out with monthly meetings and programs. Anyone desiring more information can contact Little People of America, P.O. Box 5127, Station 4, North Hollywood, Calif. 91604.



FRANK LAW



RON HACKL



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Little People's Golf Benefit Scheduled

Although it's the "Little People" who are sponsoring it, the tournament itself will be strictly "big-time", as the first annual Little People's Celebrity Golf Tournament, headed up by the world-famed Billy Barty, was announced this week.

The one-day celebrity affair, in which invited members of the public may play, will be held Sept. 30 at Azusa Greens Country Club, and will be a benefit tourney to aid research into the causes and cures of "dwarfism".

Among the full-sized celebrities who've already agreed to play are Allen Hale Efferin Zimbalist Jr., Maury Wills, Mickey Rooney, Jack Albertson and many, many others.

But the star of the day is very likely to be Barty himself, the 3-foot, 9-inch giant of show business, who is founder of the Little People's Assn., and who is a driving force behind the raising of funds for the dwarfism research.



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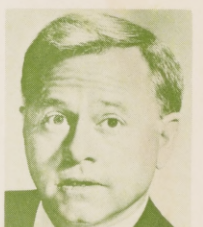
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Forest Tucker
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FEATURES!!!

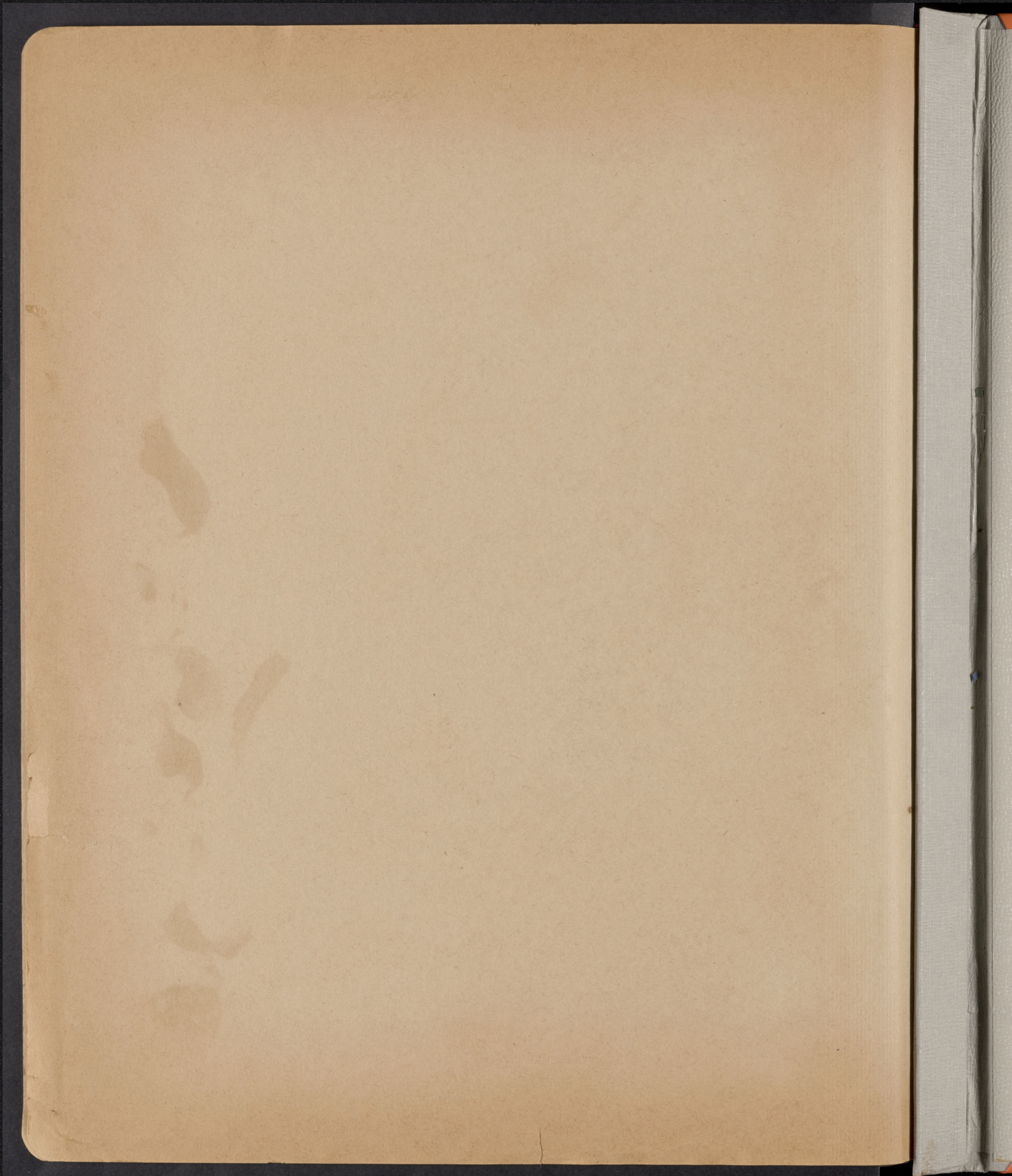
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